

to attract workers from other places. As you know, the State of Nebraska has not only boosted jobs in the private sector, but we have supported our own employees by raising their pay. Finally, the citizens of Nebraska realize affordable housing is essential to the economic health of our state. I will work hard to get affordable housing for every Nebraska family. Now picture that typical Nebraska family again. They lead a wholesome life. They have strong values and they work hard. Still, sometimes they struggle to make ends meet. If we have done our jobs right by the end of this session, their lives will be a little better so they can enjoy the good life of Nebraska, so life for them is, indeed, more than a matter of survival. All of these changes are, as President James Madison would say, for the public good, the real welfare of the people. Just as James Madison and the nation's founders were aggressive and confident in their fight to uphold the constitutional balance of government, so must we be aggressive and confident. We must declare our intent, take action and believe in ourselves. We must work together without partisan or special interest bickering. Every level of government, every family, and every citizen of Nebraska must do their part to support these changes in government if they are to become real. I ask you all to join me in this effort to streamline government and have the courage for confident change. We must not be afraid to veer off our well-worn path of government management. It's obvious that change is what the people of Nebraska want. We must have confidence to work as fast and as hard as those builders of the transcontinental railroad and to leave a legacy as reliable as those steel rails to keep Nebraska on track for health, safety and prosperity. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Will the committee please escort the Governor and Mrs. Nelson from the Chamber. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, items for the record. Reference Report from the Reference Committee referring LBs 250-306, and a number of constitutional amendments to the appropriate Standing Committees for confirmation hearing. (See pages 272-74 of the Legislative Journal.)

Madam President, new bills. (Read LB 380-408 for the first time by title. See pages 274-79 of the Legislative Journal.)

Madam President, I have a series of hearing notices from the Education Committee, signed by Senator Bohlke; Banking